EDLD 5364

Teaching With Technology

4th Week Reflection

This week’s assignment focused on methods to design student-centered learning experiences with technology. The assignment also focused on the professional development that best provides teachers with the tools to implement various types of technology for their classrooms. The assignment stated that we also needed to be aware of methods to utilize technology for classroom enhancement and enrichment. We also took time to look at different types of professional development and the training methods that would work best to help and support teachers in diverse learning communities. We also focused on the importance of incorporating cooperative learning groups. When students work together in cooperative learning groups they are able to share prior knowledge and build new knowledge about the content area together. Our students that we are educating today will more so than ever, be involved and possibly working in the global community. It is our responsibility to prepare our students for this type of working environment. They will be working in cooperative environments and will need to be prepared to function effectively and successfully. Our students will be living and working in virtual environments and will be expected to function effectively. They will need to possess the tools that it takes to make this happen. They will need to understand the methods to use blogs, Wikis, online coursework, instant messaging, voice and video so they can function successfully in the global community. Our video clips this week gave us the opportunity to look at resources available to us and allowed us to learn more about cooperative and collaborative teaching methods. This week we also had an opportunity to collaborate with our learning team to prepare information in our Google Doc, our Google site and the CAST areas so that we could complete our learning activities. Once we complete the necessary activities, reflections, and posts to our team Google site, we will be able to add to our eporfolio Wiki site.

The McRel Technology Initiative discusses the reasons that “McREL decided to create and test a comprehensive, research-based model of professional development that helps teachers integrate technology into their classroom instruction, and ultimately, helps students achieve challenging content standards” Pitler (2005, p. 1). This article discusses that we need to provide professional development for teachers and that schools need to make technology a major part of their curriculum. But in order for teachers to utilize the technology tools provided them, we need proper technology professional development so that they can implement the technology in their classrooms. Schools can be identified as possible site for MTS intervention. These schools are provided with mentoring, workshops, online meetings, and surveys to appropriately address their needs.

This week’s lesson also focused on using UDL to measure student progress. These tools can make it feasible to complete ongoing assessment that may better meet individual needs. Students have different learning styles and it is important that teachers fine effective methods to meet these individual needs. It is important to assess often to get feedback from students to see teachers are giving effective instruction for all the students. It is also important for accurate assessment. Sometimes we need to provide different types and methods of assessment to meet the students’ individual learning differences. “Embedded, flexible, ongoing assessment have the potential to resolve many of the problems with standardized paper-and-pencil tests, particularly as tools for guiding teaching” Cast (2009, p. 1).

We need to prepare our students for the future. As educators, we need to design student-centered instruction and integrate with technology. If we use all the resources, tools, and technology practices available to us, we will be able to better prepare our students for the future global community.

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